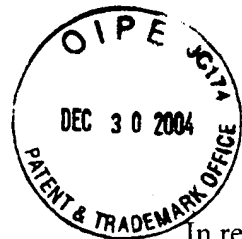


B/ITW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE**
Kazuo HATA et al. : **Confirmation No. 5987**
Serial No. 09/597,763 : [Group Art Unit 1772
Filed June 20, 2000 : Examiner W. P. WATKINS III]

CERAMIC SHEET AND PROCESS FOR
PRODUCING THE SAME

RULE 56 STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

There are submitted herewith an Office Action issued in the corresponding Japanese application on December 7, 2004, and a Japanese Laid-Open Application No. JP 4-149064 which was cited therein.

Please make these documents a permanent part of the application file.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuo HATA et al.

By

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December 30, 2004

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE THE AGENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975